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## **NC EQUINE PASSPORT PROGRAM – FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

### **What is the Equine Passport Program?**

*The Equine Passport Program is a voluntary program designed as a convenience for equine owners who frequently travel out-of-state with their animals. This allows owners to travel with their animals to events without having to obtain monthly Interstate Certificates of Veterinary Inspection (ICVI) each time they travel.*

### **What information is required in order to process my Equine Passport?**

*To receive a North Carolina Equine Passport, [download the PDF application](#), complete it and mail it in with your payment to:*

NCDA&CS Veterinary Division  
1030 Mail Service Center  
Raleigh, NC 27699-1030

*All applications are required to have:*

- *A \$5.00 application fee per animal. Payment may be made by check or money order (payable to NCDA&CS).*
- *A valid, negative Equine Infectious Anemia (EIA) test result – also known as a Coggins – that has been completed within the previous 12 months for each animal. **The date we use is the date the animal's blood was drawn for testing, not the issue date.***
- *A North Carolina Interstate Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (ICVI) completed by an accredited veterinarian. **To be considered valid, the ICVI must be submitted no more than 30 days from the examination date, not the issue date.***
- *Digital pictures to create the photo ID we issue to you. You must submit pictures of the animal's front, left and right sides. All pictures must show the animal from the tips of the ears to the hooves. New photos are required annually, and can be emailed to [ncequinepassport@ncagr.gov](mailto:ncequinepassport@ncagr.gov).*
- *Additional proof of permanent identification may be included by submitting:*
  - *Lip tattoo*
  - *Brand*
  - *Electronic Implant*

- *A completed travel itinerary form for each animal from their previous passport. If this is their first application, you won't need to worry about this until you put in for their next passport. **The itinerary must be sent in before a new passport can be issued, and one must be in the owner/transporter's possession with each equine movement.***

### **How long is the Equine Passport valid?**

*The NC Equine Passport is valid for six months, unless the negative Equine Infectious Anemia (EIA) result will expire during that time period. In that case, the passport will be issued with an expiration date to match the duration of the EIA.*

*If you have questions about when your passport will expire, feel free to contact us at [ncequinepassport@ncagr.gov](mailto:ncequinepassport@ncagr.gov).*

### **Which states participate in the Equine Passport Program?**

*The following states participate in the Equine Passport Program: Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, New York, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia and West Virginia. For states that do not participate in the program, it will still be necessary for the owner to obtain an Interstate Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (ICVI) prior to movement. An EIA test record with negative results recorded within the previous seven months is required for travel to Arkansas and Oklahoma. Prior to travel, always check with the state of destination for any additional entry requirements.*

### **I live in another state, but my horse is stabled in North Carolina. Can I get a passport through the state of North Carolina?**

*Yes. The NC Equine Passport is issued based on the physical address where the animal resides. For example, an owner who lives in Rock Hill, South Carolina and has their quarter horse stabled in Charlotte, North Carolina would apply for their passport with the North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services.*

*If the roles were reversed, that owner would apply for a passport with South Carolina.*

### **I live in North Carolina. Is an Equine Passport required for travel within North Carolina?**

*The Equine Passport is not required for travel within North Carolina; however, a copy of a valid EIA test is required.*

### **Can I use the photos on my horse's Interstate Certificate of Veterinary Inspection or EIA test form rather than send in original pictures?**

*We require original photos to be taken annually. Unfortunately, the thumbnail pictures on those forms are too small to use without losing picture quality, and it's difficult to extract those photos from the PDF documents to begin with.*

*While we can't take pictures from the forms, we will accept the original, unedited digital photos taken for the CVI or EIA by the attending veterinarian's office. It's worth checking with your vet to find out if they retain those photos and will share them for passport use.*

**If you have pictures on file from an earlier passport, why do I have to send in new ones?**

*A horse's appearance can change over time - some can gray, have their coats lighten, or maybe the owner has added a brand or tattoo - since their last photos were submitted. It is through their colors, their markings, and the scrapes and scars of life that we are able to identify them. Having up-to-date photos decreases the chances that a barn owner or state official may argue that the animal you are traveling with doesn't match up with the animal on the passport.*

**What is the passport itinerary and when do I fill it out?**

*The itinerary form is where owners list each departure and return date, where they went with their animal(s) and any in-transit stops they made. If this is your first passport, don't worry about it when you send in your initial application. It's best to send it in along with your next application, though you can send it in by itself after your passport travels are over if you wish. The itinerary must be sent in before a new passport can be issued, and one must be in the owner/transporter's possession with each equine movement.*

**Why do I need to fill out a passport itinerary?**

*The itinerary is used for disease traceability. If a disease outbreak occurred at an event, the passport itinerary is used to determine which animals were exposed to the disease. It is a critical component that makes the whole Equine Passport Program work as it should.*

*If you have questions about filling out the itinerary, feel free to contact us at [ncequinepassport@ncagr.gov](mailto:ncequinepassport@ncagr.gov).*

**Where should I send my Equine Passport application?**

*Your Equine Passport application should be mailed to:*

NCDA&CS Veterinary Division  
1030 Mail Service Center  
Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-1030

**Who can I speak with if I have additional questions about the Equine Passport Program?**

*You can get in touch with us in the Veterinary Division at (919) 707-3250.*